

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figure 3.

Attachment: Replacement sheet
 Annotated sheet showing changes

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 11, 31 and 33 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-30 and 32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. Claims 1, 31 and 33 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to more appropriately recite the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings and the specification. The Examiner further objected to claims 6 and 11. The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; rejected claims 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §101; rejected claims 1, 3-5, 13 and 31-33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yang (USP 6,133,847); and rejected claims 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang in view of Thorsteinsson (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0105854). Applicants respectfully traverse these objections and rejections.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings asserting Fig. 3 does not show the third block 118 establishing radio communication with a remote control device, as recited on page 22, lines 1-2 of the specification.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended Fig. 3 to depict the third block 118 establishing radio communication with a remote control device in conformity with page 22, lines 1-2 of the specification. Based on this amendment, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification based on typographical errors. By this amendment, Applicants have amended the specification as follows: Page 15, line 28, “control unit 105” has been changed to “control unit 150”; Page 16, line 17, “key input unit 108” has been changed to “key input unit 103”; Page 18, lines 24-25, “flash memory 830” has been changed to “flash memory 803”; and Page 23, line 25, “first block 114” has been changed to “first block 142”.

With regard to page 26, line 8, Applicants maintain that operation screen of Fig. 20 is proper.

Based on the amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding objection be withdrawn.

Claim Objections and Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner objected to claim 6, 11 and further rejected claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to further clarify the claimed invention. Based on these amendments, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner rejected claim 31 asserting it does not satisfy the “machine or transformation test” as set forth in *In re Bilski*. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 31 to tie the method to a specific machine. Based on this amendment, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner further rejected claim 32 asserting it is non-statutory. By this amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 32 without prejudice to the subject matter included therein.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a gateway device comprising a communication device, communicably linked to a remote-control device and appliances, for receiving operation information from said remote-control device, wherein, said operation information includes an instruction from one of users to control at least one of said appliances. The gateway device includes a controller configured to control said gateway device, said controller including a storage device for storing permitted appliance information in correspondence with each of said users, said permitted appliance information representing permitted appliances which each of said users is permitted to operate among said appliances, and storing control application programs respectively corresponding to said appliances, each of said application programs representing information processing to form control information from said operation information.

The gateway device further includes a processing unit for forming, based on said permitted appliance information stored in said storage device, first display information for prompting the user of a transmission source to select one of permitted appliances and controlling said communication device to transmit said first display information to said transmission source when said communication device receives user identification information identifying said user of said transmission source of said operation information and an authentication request requesting identification of said appliance,

The processing unit further forms, based on transmission source information identifying the remote-control device of said transmission source, second display information representing a user interface for prompting said user of said transmission source to select an operation of the permitted appliance selected based on said first display information, and transmitting said second display information to said transmission source by said communication device.

The processing unit further receives, by said communication device as a reply to said second display information, information including said operation information and destination information identifying the selected permitted appliance, and converting, based on said application program, said received operation information to control information representing an operation control of said selected permitted appliance.

In contrast, the disclosure of Yang is directed to a remote control device is provided that is able to be programmed after initial manufacture to accommodate the control of additional apparatuses. The remote control device includes a multi-functional, interchangeable user interface where the interface is modified such that it is able to control the functions of a variety of different types of apparatuses (Abstract).

Specifically, Yang discloses a remote control that provides for data interface 110 to download programming software code to the remote control device from an appliance to be controlled. The code may then be utilized to control the appliance.

However, in accordance with claim 1, both formation of data for displaying the user interface and signal conversion for controlling the selected permitted appliance are performed on the gateway side. In this manner, the work load of the remote control device is significantly reduced. Further, when a new appliance is added to the system as a permitted appliance, all the user has to do is register a corresponding application program at the gateway device. There is no need for the user to download or install the new program to the user's remote control device.

Yang fails to teach or suggest a gateway device including a processor unit for forming, based on said permitted appliance information stored in said storage device, first display information for prompting the user of a transmission source to select one of permitted appliances and controlling said communication device to transmit said first display information to said transmission source when said communication device receives user identification information identifying said user of said transmission source of said operation information and an authentication request requesting identification of said appliance, and forming, based on

transmission source information identifying the remote-control device of said transmission source, second display information representing a user interface for prompting said user of said transmission source to select an operation of the permitted appliance selected based on said first display information, and transmitting said second display information to said transmission source by said communication device.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Yang. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 7 and 11 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1 at least based on their dependency on claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that claims 31 and 33 include elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1 and thus these claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachments